

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. to 44. (Cancelled)

45. (Previously Presented) An ink container detachably mounted to an ink container mounting portion of an ink jet printer having an ink deriving tube for deriving ink from the ink container and an air introducing tube for introducing air into the ink container, the ink deriving tube and the air introducing tube being arranged upward in a vertical direction, said ink container comprising:

a container main body for containing ink; and

a connecting portion to which the ink deriving tube and the air introducing tube are connected, said connecting portion being provided at a bottom surface of said container main body in a mounted state thereof on the mounting portion;

wherein both of the ink deriving tube and the air introducing tube are arranged in the mounting portion so that both of the ink deriving tube and the air introducing tube can be connected to said ink container at a portion deviated to either one of side walls with respect to a center portion of said bottom surface of said container main body,

wherein said connecting portion of said ink container is arranged at a position where the ink deriving tube and the air introducing tube can be connected thereto.

46. (Currently Amended) An ink container according to Claim 45, wherein at least an inner space of said ink container is pointed toward said bottom surface of said ink container.

47. (Currently Amended) An ink container according to Claim 45, further comprising an identification information structure for mechanically holding identification information of said ink container at a part of ~~said side surface of a shorter side of said ink container~~ a shorter one of said side walls.

48. (Currently Amended) An ink container according to Claim 45, further comprising an information memory element capable of holding identification information of said ink container at a position of said bottom surface ~~of said ink container~~ different from a position to which the ink deriving tube and the air introducing tube are connected, and composed of an electric, magnetic, optical or a combined system.

49. (Previously Presented) An ink container according to Claim 48, wherein said information memory element is an element capable of alteration, deletion or additional writing of the memorized information in addition to readout of the memorized information from the exterior of said ink liquid container.

50. (Previously Presented) An ink container according to Claim 45, wherein said ink container contains ink, and said ink container is mounted to the mounting portion and recording is executed so that the ink contained in said ink container is derived from the ink deriving tube and air is introduced into inside of said ink container from the air introducing tube.

51. (Previously Presented) An ink container according to Claim 50, wherein said ink is a pigment ink.

52. (Currently Amended) An ink container according to Claim 45, wherein said ink container has an external shape of a flat thin type of rectangular solid,

wherein said connecting portion comprises multiple connection elements including an ink deriving connection element to which the ink deriving tube is connected and an air introducing connection element to which the air introducing tube is connected,

wherein each connection element is independently provided at a portion deviated from a center portion of said ~~container main body~~ bottom surface to either a shorter one of the side surfaces ~~of the shorter side~~, and

wherein said ink deriving connection element is placed at a position closer to a side surface of the short shorter side and said air introducing connection element is placed at a position closer to a center than said ink deriving connection element.

53. (Currently Amended) An ink container according to Claim 52, wherein said ink deriving connection element and said air introducing connection element are positioned on a line substantially passing through a center in a ~~shorter side~~ direction of the shorter side of said ink container.

54. (Previously Presented) An ink container according to Claim 52, wherein said air introducing connection element is provided with a tubular member near the bottom surface, the tubular member being oriented inward of said container main body and projecting slightly.

55. (Previously Presented) An ink container according to Claim 52, wherein a filter is disposed at said ink deriving connection element.

56. (Previously Presented) An ink container according to Claim 52, wherein an elastic member is disposed at said ink deriving connection element and said air introducing connection element.

57. (Currently Amended) An ink container according to Claim 52, wherein a bottom surface of said ink deriving connection element is disposed at a position lower than said bottom surface of said ink container.

58. (Previously Presented) An ink container detachably mounted to an ink container mounting portion of an ink jet printer having an ink deriving tube for deriving ink from said ink container and an air introducing tube for introducing air into said ink container, the ink deriving tube and the air introducing tube being arranged upward in a vertical direction, said ink container comprising:

a container main body for containing ink, said container main body having an external shape of a flat thin type of rectangular solid; and

a connecting portion to which said ink deriving tube and said air introducing tube are connected, said connecting portion being provided at a bottom surface of said container main body in a mounted state thereof on the mounting portion,

wherein both of the ink deriving tube and the air introducing tube are arranged in the mounting portion so that both of the ink deriving tube and the air introducing tube are connected to said ink container at a portion deviated to either one of side walls of a shorter side with respect to a center portion of the bottom surface of said container main body,

wherein said connecting portion comprises multiple connection elements including an ink deriving connection element to which the ink deriving tube is connected and an air introducing connection element to which the air introducing tube is connected,

wherein each connection element is independently provided at a portion deviated from a center portion of said container main body bottom surface to either one of the side surfaces of the shorter side, and wherein said ink deriving connection element is placed at a position closer to a side surface of the short side and said air introducing

connection element is placed at a position closer to a center than said ink deriving connection element, and

wherein said ink container contains ink, and said ink container is mounted to the mounting portion and recording is executed so that the ink contained in said ink container is derived from said ink deriving connection element and air is introduced into the inside of said ink container from said air introducing connection element.

59. (Previously Presented) An ink container according to Claim 58, wherein said ink is a pigment ink.

60. (New) An ink container according to Claim 58, wherein said air introducing connection element is provided with a tubular member, the tubular member being oriented inward of said container main body and projecting slightly.

61. (Previously Presented) An ink container according to Claim 58, wherein a bottom surface of said ink deriving connection element is disposed at a position lower than said bottom surface of said ink container.